

17. Civil Justice:—The main feature of the administration of civil justice was the increase of congestion of work in all classes of the Civil Courts. To meet the evil; the Temporary Second Judge in the Quilon District Court was retained throughout the year, two Additional Judges were appointed to the Alleppey District Court for a period of five months, a Second Additional Judge was appointed to the Quilon Court for a period of three months and a Temporary Additional Munsiff to Thiruvella. Since the close of the year, Government had to proceed further in the same direction. A Third Judge was appointed to the Trivandrum Court and also three more Temporary Munsiffs. The High Court have submitted comprehensive proposals for the thorough re-organisation of the Civil Judicial Department, so as to meet the increasing volume of work. The proposals are now before Government and orders would be passed on them soon.

Public Works.

18. Outlay:—There was a substantial increase in the outlay on public works, the aggregate expenditure rising from Rs. 20,17,000 to Rs. 23,79,000, in other words, by over $3\frac{1}{2}$ lacs of rupees. Of the outlay of Rs. 23,79,000, the Chief Engineer spent Rs. 20,87,000 and the Maramat Department Rs. 2,92,000. Of the increase of $3\frac{1}{2}$ lacs of rupees, the Kodayar accounted for about a lac of rupees. The remaining portion of the increase was under ordinary public works. Notwithstanding the increased expenditure of the year, His Highness' Government were not able to meet satisfactorily the demand made on them for new works. Government are anxious to take advantage of the returning financial prosperity of the State to push forward the construction of new roads in the Kottayam and Quilon Divisions, but the staff of the Chief Engineer's Department, as it now stands, is unable to spend satisfactorily more than about 21 lacs of rupees. The question whether the Department should not be strengthened, at least temporarily, to enable it to get through the arrears of work in North Travancore, is engaging consideration.

Railway.

19. The Quilon-Shencotta Railway:—The Railway from Shencotta to Quilon continued to work at a loss, the guaranteed interest paid by the State during the year being Bh. Rs. 1,88,000. This Railway was constructed, for the Travancore State, by the S. I. R., out of funds raised by the latter, on the responsibility of the former, by means of debenture loans. The capital liability on this account is Rs. 118 lacs, and the guaranteed interest on this sum averages over $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The line has not yet paid in any year even two per cent on the capital outlay. Some time ago, His Highness' Government appointed a Committee to enquire into and report, among other things, on the best means for developing the traffic of the Railway. The report of the Committee has been recently received, and one of the recommendations made by them is that there should be some disafforestation on both sides of the Railway line, between Punalur and Shencotta, to admit of the extension of cultivation. It has been urged by the Committee that, unless the country on either side of the line becomes a cultivated and populated one, the Railway would not pay. The suggestion will receive due consideration.

20. Sinking Fund:—It is under contemplation to provide a Sinking Fund for the purpose of paying off the capital liability of Rs. 118 lacs referred to supra. In view to the largeness of the amount, and the circumstance that the State will not be able to put by for the purpose more than two lacs of rupees per year, it will take 32 years to pay away the debt.

Devaswoms and Charities.

21. In regard to the important subject of Devaswoms and Charities, you may remember that, in my address last year, I stated that the report of Mr. Ramachandra Row was engaging the consideration of His Highness' Government. Mr. Ramachandra Row's report related to (1) State Charities, (2) Devaswoms and (3) Purificatory Ceremonies. Government have since passed final orders on the first part, viz., State Charities, so far as the Mofussil Oottupuras are concerned. Out of 41 Mofussil Oottus, 8 have been closed as unnecessary. The remaining Oottus have been ordered to be maintained but with their *padivus* revised. The items of expenditure really belonging to the head of 'Oottupuras' were separated from those which, though unconnected with the same, were yet being incurred under that head. The items under the former head were carefully scrutinised so as to retain only what was absolutely necessary. A scale in money for all the items of expenditure was fixed, so as to bring the whole thing under strict budget control. The details were worked out for all the minor heads under the major head 'State Charities', except the Agrasala. The revised *padivus* give an annual saving of about a lac of rupees. In revising the scale of expenditure, Government have taken adequate note of possible variations in the prices of rice and other provisions. The revised *padivus* for the Mofussil Oottus came into operation from the beginning of 1085. The experience of now over four months has shown that the revised *padivus* have not been under-estimated. The only branch of expenditure which remains to be looked into, under the head of 'State Charities', is the Agrasala, the principal feeding institution at the Capital. The *padivu* of this institution will be examined at an early date. And after that is done, the reorganisation of the Devaswoms will be taken up; and lastly, the revision of the *padivus* for the Purificatory Ceremonies.

22. The total expenditure on account of 'Devaswoms' and 'Charities' in 1084 was Rs. 11,04,000 and Rs. 6,45,000 respectively, as against Rs. 9,65,000 and Rs. 6,33,000 in the previous year. The increase of expenditure under 'Devaswoms' was due to the increase in the prices paid for paddy and other provisions.

Education.

23. Director of Public Instruction:— A great deal of attention was paid during the year to the work of the Educational Department. The Department was placed under the control of a Director of Public Instruction. The number of Inspectors' Ranges was reduced from three to two, an Inspectress being however appointed to look after all the Girls' Schools in the State. The strong points in the educational system of Travancore are the compact nature of the area and population, the extent to which education is already directly in the hands of Government, and what is most important of all, the remarkable anxiety of the people generally for the